

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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SUBJECT: SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF IMMIGRATION
APPLICATIONS

REF: STATE 204501

1. CONSULAR SECTION HAS SOUGHT TO MONITOR
ATTITUDES OF THE VARIOUS CITY, OBLAST, AND
REPUBLIC OVIRS DURING INTERVIEWS IV AND TCP
APPLICANTS. FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
US, IT APPEARS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO WARNING
FROM THE OVIRS THAT EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR
TO EITHER ISRAEL, THE UNITED STATES, OR
LEBANON IS ABOUT TO BE CUTOFF. EMIGRANTS HAVE
PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS
ABOUT OVIRS:

2. ODESSA: ACCORDING TO A RUSSIAN WIFE OF AN
AMERICAN SAILOR, THE ODESSA OVIR IS RECEIVING
APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT VISAS ONLY ONE DAY A
WEEK (MONDAY). SHE REPORTED THAT THE OFFICE
LACKED MANY OF THE NECESSARY FORMS, BUT THAT
GIVEN THE USUAL POOR STANDARDS OF MANAGEMENT,
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THE OVIR WAS STILL PROCESSING A NUMBER OF JEWISH
EMIGRANTS FOR ISRAEL. SHE DID NOT SEE ANY
SIGNS OF A CUTOFF OF EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS.
THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY A JEWISH FAMILY WHICH
RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION FROM THE ODESSA OVIR
ON THE FIRST APPLICATION AFTER A SIX-MONTH
WAIT.

3. CHERNOVITSY: A JEWISH EMIGRANT REPORTED THAT THE OVIR WAS OVERWHELMED WITH WORK, AND THAT JEWISH EMIGRANTS WITH EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL WERE WAITING FOR SIX TO NINE MONTHS FOR THEIR APPLICATIONS TO BE APPROVED.

4. ZAKARPATSKAYA: (INCLUDES THE CITY OVIRS OF MUKACHEVO AND UZHGOROD): JEWISH EMIGRANTS FROM ZAKARPATSKAYA OBLAST REPORT THAT THE OVIR IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS, AND THAT THE NORMAL WAITING PERIOD IS SIX MONTHS.

5. ARMENIAN SSR OVIR: AS HAS BEEN REPORTED SEPAIR, THE YEREVAN OVIR HAS TAKEN AN INCREASINGLY HARD LINE WITH PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS. JUDGING FROM CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOVIET CITIZENS IN YEREVAN AND FROM SPONSORS IN THE UNITED STATES, THE PERCENTAGE OF REFUSALS HAS RISEN RAPIDLY. ARMENIANS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD CONSOFF THAT THE REASON FOR THE REFUSAL IS THAT THE AUTHORITIES CLAIM THAT THE MAJORITY OF THEIR RELATIVES ARE IN THE SOVIET UNION. APPLICATIONS FROM NEPHEWS AND COUSINS, AND SOMETIMES BROTHERS, ARE ROUTINELY REFUSED BY THE OVIR FOR THIS REASON. WE HAVE HEARD NO RUMORS OF A CUTOFF IN ARMENIAN EMIGRATION.

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6. EMBASSY WILL MONITOR THIS ISSUE VERY CLOSELY. WE WILL CONTINUE AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE TO RAISE THE QUESTION WITH PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS DURING INTERVIEWS. TOON

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